

Mayor Deb Higgins Column, April 19, 2013

I was downtown running errands and as I made my way around the block looking for a parking spot, I realized that it was great to see Moose Jaw so busy. Looking for a parking spot wasn't such a bad thing after all.

The success our city is enjoying has been a long gradual process and it has had input from many people. Bit by bit the pieces have come together and plans are continually being developed for other projects that will continue to build Moose Jaw and keep us moving forward.

The early decision to highlight our heritage has proven to be a successful one. Paving stones on downtown sidewalks, the return to the original lighting fixtures on Main Street, and the murals of Moose Jaw were not without controversy in the beginning, but today, they are accepted pieces of our history and part of who we are.

With each of us the process to believe Moose Jaw has potential to succeed has also been slow at times but that really has changed over the last number of years. Many believe we have only just begun to realize our community's potential and that this decade is Moose Jaw's time to grow. You just have to look downtown to see the activity or throughout the city to see the development to realize how many people believe in Moose Jaw and the opportunities available here.

Throughout all the ups and downs, there has been one group of citizens who have not wavered in their support of our community. Formally referred to as "volunteers" they have always been ready to lend a hand and help when needed. They realize that while buildings and infrastructure may make a city, it takes local programs and events that enhance life to really build community.

As a young person, many of us participated in sports or joined Girl Guides or Scouts. It would not have been possible without all the folks who volunteer as coaches and leaders. We enjoy attending the Home Town Fair and Parade, the Santa Claus Parade, Canada Day celebrations, the Festival of Words and Motif, all celebrations that are greeted with anticipation by young and old alike! Each of these events and many more day-to-day community activities would not be possible without volunteers to plan, organize and carry out all it takes to successfully host an event or support the community.

April 21 to 27 is National Volunteer Week. It is a time to recognize and celebrate the contributions of volunteers. To each and every one of you who contributes your own time to making Moose Jaw a better place to live, thank you! Your work is appreciated and enjoyed by us all.

Deb Higgins
Mayor